[Translation]

Adulteration of Petrol

70. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "...And thus Flows Money from Barrel of Oil, Sale of adulterated petrol goes on unchecked" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated December 24, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the effective measures taken proposed to be taken to check the sale of adulterated petrol freely in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to check adulteration of petrol/diesel and malpractices at retail outlets, steps such as Filter Paper Test, Density test, furfural doping of kerosene, blue dying of kerosene, surprise inspections by mobile laboratories and regular/surprise inspections by field officers of the oil companies and joint industry teams are taken. Inspections are conducted by State Government enforcement agencies also.

In proven cases of adulteration/malpractices, action such as issue of warning letters, imposition of fines, suspension of dealership are taken under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and the MS/HSD Control Order. Repeated violations may lead to termination of the dealership.

A special month long campaign for checking malpractices/irregularities at retail outlets was conducted from 20-12-1996 to 19-1-1997 in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and from 26-12-1996 to 25-1-1997 in the rest of the country.

Action was taken against erring dealers/distributors under the marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Food Processing Industries

*71. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing industries in the country, till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of unemployed youths and other persons provided employment in such industries;

(c) the number of indigenous and multi-national companies functioning in food processing sector;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote this industry and to provide employment in this industry in rural areas; and

(e) the areas selected for setting up of food processing industries, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) to (e) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and un-organised sectors. Hence, the information relating to the number of food processing industries in the country, and statewise, is not maintained centrally. However, as per the available information, the number of food processing industries which include Rice and Roller Flour milling, fruits and vegetable processing, fish and meat processing, milk products, confectionary and sweetened aerated water etc. comes to 1,45,004.

According to the Annual Survey of India (Ministry of Planning) for the year 1993-94, there were 27,255, units in the factories sector, manufacturing food and beverages, having an employment of 17,00,682 persons.

As per the second All India Census of small scale industries (Ministry of Industries) published in August 1992, there were 99,792 registered units in 1988 engaged in production of food and beverages, employing 555,057 persons.

Most of the food processing industries are de-lirensed and the entrepreneurs desiring to set up food processing units in the de-licensed sector are only required to file an industrial Entrepreneur-Memorandum. In pursuance of this liberalisation till December 1996, 3885 IEMs envisaging an investment of Rs. 45,752 crores and employment of 6.21 lakh persons have been filed, in various sectors of food processing industries. Out of these, till December 1996, 511 IEMs envisaging an investment of Rs. 6,604 crores and employment of 0.67 lakh persons have been implemented. Most of these IEMs propose to set up units in non-urban areas.

Besides, Government have also approved 908 proposals (upto November 1996) for 100% Export Oriented Units, Foreign Collaborations and Units requiring Industrial Licence. These involve an investment of Rs. 16,019 crores, including foreign investment of Rs. 7,276 crores. Out of these, 155 projects envisaging investment of Rs. 3,298 crores, and foreign investment of Rs. 1,836 crores, with employment of 0.79 lakh persons have already been implemented.

The exact number of indigenous and multi-national companies functioning in the food processing sectors is not available.

Ministry extends financial assistance under its plan schemes for promotion of food processing industries. In some of the schemes enhanced financial support is provided for projects set up in Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) districts/areas. Financial assistance is also provided for setting up of food processing and training centres in rural areas.